

By Representative Futch

1                                   A bill to be entitled  
2           An act relating to animals; creating s. 828.35,  
3           F.S.; providing requirements for the rabies  
4           vaccination of ferrets; providing exemptions;  
5           providing for rabies vaccination certificates;  
6           providing for quarantine according to rules;  
7           providing a penalty; providing an effective  
8           date.

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10   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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12           Section 1. Section 828.35, Florida Statutes, is  
13   created to read:

14           828.35 Rabies vaccination of ferrets.--

15           (1) All ferrets 4 months of age or older must be  
16 vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian with a  
17 United States Government-approved vaccine. The cost of  
18 vaccination must be borne by the animal's owner.

19           (2) A ferret is exempt from vaccination against rabies  
20 if a licensed veterinarian has examined the animal and has  
21 certified in writing that at the time vaccination would  
22 endanger the animal's health because of its age, infirmity,  
23 disability, illness, or other medical considerations. An  
24 exempt animal must be vaccinated against rabies as soon as its  
25 health permits.

26           (3) Upon vaccination against rabies, the licensed  
27 veterinarian shall provide the animal's owner and the animal  
28 control authority with a rabies vaccination certificate which  
29 must contain at least the following information:

30           (a) The license number of the administering  
31 veterinarian.

1       (b) The name, address, and phone number of the  
2 veterinarian and owner.  
3       (c) The date of vaccination.  
4       (d) The expiration date of the vaccination.  
5       (e) The species, age, sex, color, weight, and name of  
6 the animal vaccinated.  
7       (f) The rabies vaccine manufacturer.  
8       (g) The vaccine lot number and expiration date.  
9       (h) The type and brand of vaccine used.  
10       (i) The route of administration of the vaccine.  
11       (j) The signature or signature stamp of the licensed  
12 veterinarian.  
13       (4) Beginning March 1 following the effective date of  
14 this act, each ferret vaccinated according to this section  
15 shall be quarantined, when necessary, according to rules of  
16 the Department of Health.  
17       (5) Violation of this section is a civil infraction,  
18 punishable as provided in s. 828.27(2).  
19       (6) This section does not prohibit or limit  
20 municipalities or counties from enacting requirements similar  
21 to or more stringent than the provisions of this section for  
22 the implementation and enforcement of rabies-control  
23 ordinances.  
24       Section 2. This act shall take effect January 1 of the  
25 year following the year in which enacted.  
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28                   HOUSE SUMMARY  
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30       Provides requirements for the rabies vaccination of  
31       ferrets 4 months of age or older. Provides exemptions  
      under certain circumstances. Requires rabies vaccination  
      certificates and rules for quarantine. Provides penalties  
      for violations.